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## Columbia Chronicle (04/24/2017)

Columbia College Chicago

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# THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Volume 52, Issue 28

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Columbia partners with  
closing university

PAGE 4

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bookstores go  
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PAGE 20



April  
**24**  
**2017**

» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE

## Biggest Mouth brings fresh fusion of sounds

SEE PAGE 8



Pictured: Anna Agosta, 2017 Biggest Mouth winner



# When administrators, News Office think you're the enemy

» MEGAN BENNETT  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For readers who have noticed the administration's participation in Chronicle articles shrinking each week, it is not because of The Chronicle's lack of trying.

As readers can see in several Chronicle stories this week and many more throughout this semester, there has been a clear change in the college's communication practices. Instead of in-person interviews with administrative sources, The Chronicle is now receiving emailed statements only—an insult to not only professional practices but also the expertise administrators have to offer.

The use of cookie-cutter statements is often expected in time crunches or more sensitive stories that may include accusations of misconduct from the administration, and The Chronicle accepts that. However, it has now become the norm even for non-controversial reports. In this week's Page 4 story regarding the college's agreement to take in students from a closing college, a generally positive story, requests to speak with Columbia's enrollment and student affairs leaders were denied and substituted with an email. Speaking with leaders from the closing college proved to be a much easier and informative experience than speaking with our own college's staff. The university president even directly offered her assistance.

The same issue occurred with the Page 3 story regarding the dean search for the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences after a request to speak with Senior Vice President and Provost Stan Wearden about what he will be looking for in a dean candidate, an interview that would likely take no more than 10 minutes.

What is the reason for Columbia's secrecy?

It is unclear whether this change is coming from the very top or the News Office, but it is troubling, regardless. It shows an unwillingness to provide proper context for complex stories. Emailed statements don't offer the ability to ask more nuanced questions or follow-ups, which are necessary to not only help navigate complicated issues but also ensure accuracy. The requested sources are knowledgeable in their field, and statements from the News Office, whose employees do not have the same expertise, do not have the same weight with readers. It can also cause unneeded questions: Are they not talking because there is a bigger issue being hidden?



This makes it more difficult to balance a story, particularly for controversial subjects, when the newspaper only receives short statements as the only other perspective. It unquestionably makes the college look bad and causes more harm to the administration. Emailed statements are not candor; they are a mask to hide behind and don't allow college leaders to properly communicate.

Most importantly, it shows that the college administration, the News Office, or both, are unwilling or not interested in speaking with students or answering the questions of students who are simply trying to do their job and receive a professional journalism education. Often, Chronicle reporters are the only students with whom these two groups regularly correspond. However, they are not given the courtesy of a short interview that would allow the Columbia community to become better informed. If the administration is uninterested in speaking with representatives of the student body, perhaps working at a college shouldn't be in their career path.

The Chronicle's attempts to resolve this issue have not been successful and ignited accusations that this is a reporters' problem, not the administration's. It has not yet clicked that these students will come and go, but they are the ones here long term. This means that the inability to discuss major decisions will affect them more than the students who attend.

These administrators and spokespeople will—and have—set the tone of the college's overall environment and communication tactics. The current status quo will not suffice, and it will perpetuate a climate of secrecy, paranoia and elitism.

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Pictured: Eliza Nichols

» KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

# Permanent LAS dean close to selection

» CONNOR CARYNSKI  
CAMPUS REPORTER

**FOUR FACULTY MEMBERS** presented their qualifications for the next Dean of the School of the Liberal Arts and Sciences at a series of April 18-20 meetings, explaining their plans to address dwindling enrollment, faculty retention and other critical issues.

Senior Vice President and Provost Stan Wearden, who is expected to select a dean within the next two weeks, reminded the Columbia faculty, staff and students who attended the presentations how well-qualified the internal applicants are.

The candidates include Eliza Nichols, professor in the Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department; Sean Andrews, associate professor in the HHSS Department; Pegeen Reichert Powell, associate chair of the English Department; and Steven Corey, who is currently serving as the school's interim dean.

At their individual presentations, all of the candidates shared relevant experiences and expertise, explained their interest in the position and took questions from the audience.

Eric Freedman, dean of the School of Media Arts, said he attended the presentations because he will be working and

collaborating frequently with whoever is given the position.

"For me, [the presentations] are a way to see whether a candidate has a clear understanding of the institution and landscape of Liberal Arts and Sciences in relationship to the national landscape," Freedman said. "I can read their CVs, resumes, previous experiences and their research. The presentation is a key moment where I can ask a question to see if that vision translates into something that can really work."

Pictured: Pegeen Reichert Powell



» KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE



Pictured: Sean Andrews

» KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

As the former Dean of the School of the Fine & Performing Arts from 2007-2012, Nichols discussed the skills she learned in that position and as vice provost for The New School in New York, 2005-2007. She said her administrative experience would help with increasing and retaining faculty. "The college is in a moment right now where leadership is important," Nichols said. "I actually encouraged a lot of people to apply because I feel like we should all be helping the college."

Andrews said during his presentation that his time serving as a graduate lecturer at George Mason University in Virginia and on various Columbia committees gave him experience he can use as a dean. Andrews also outlined plans to foster online education opportunities and improve collaboration between major and

core classes in a newly proposed pathway system.

"I wanted to share some ideas I had about the future of the college and to see if other people agreed and might want me to help implement some of those ideas," Andrews said. "I'm also committed to the liberal arts and sciences as a philosophical and professional way. Students take some important things away from learning about these fields, these disciplines and these courses."

Reichert Powell cited her decade of research on retention methods and reasons students often leave an institution. She also spoke about the experience she gained directing the "Writing and Rhetoric" program as well as assisting the creation of Columbia's Faculty Senate.

Corey, who has been interim dean since the Fall 2015 Semester, said his experience in that position with budgeting, personnel review and promotion, makes him a good fit for the role. He also discussed recent proposals for expanding honors programs for both Core and LAS courses that he developed as chair of the Core Curriculum Committee.

"I wish I could say we've turned the corner and enrollment is going to pop up again and we will have all the money we need, but that is not going to happen for the foreseeable future," Corey said. "Whoever is dean will have to deal with these very complex issues and so as odd as this sounds, I am compelled to remain as dean of LAS in order to provide some physical continuity and to continue the work and relationship I have established."

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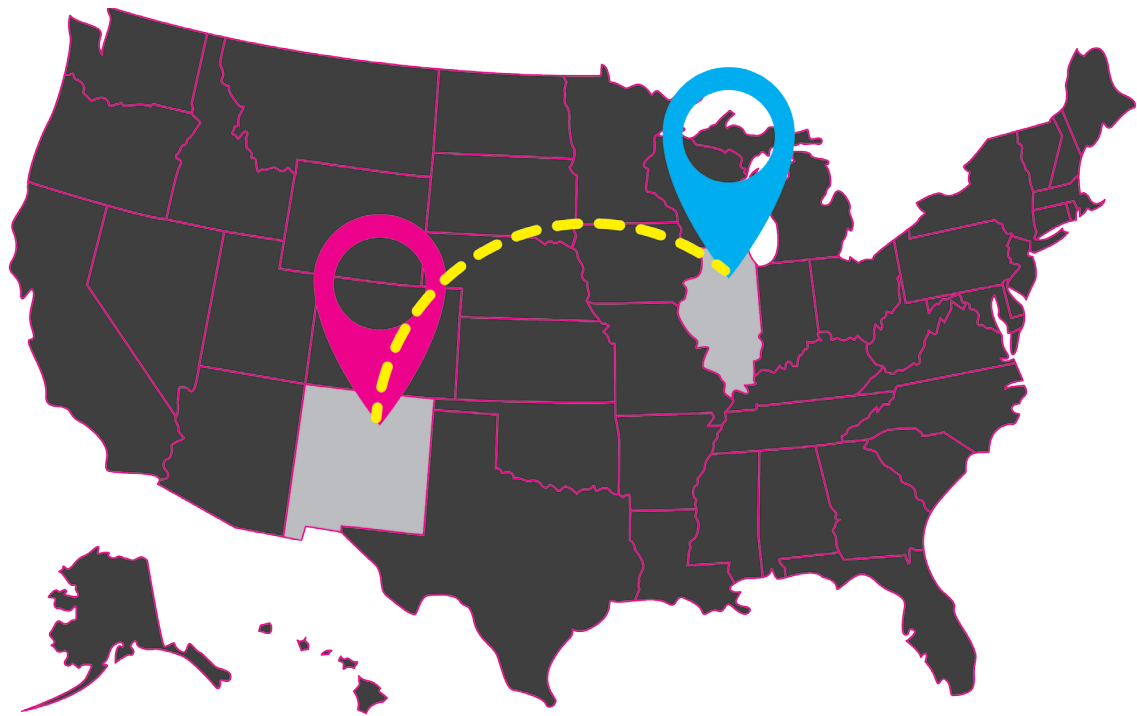


Pictured: Steven Corey

» WESLEY HEROLD/CHRONICLE



# University in Santa Fe closes, Columbia to take transfers



» GABRIEL DE LA MORA/CHRONICLE

» ARIANA PORTALATIN  
CAMPUS EDITOR

**AS A STUDENT** leader at The Santa Fe University of Art and Design, sophomore animation major Analyss Robles was one of the first students to find out the university was shutting down after the 2017–2018 academic year.

“I just broke down and started crying,” Robles said. “My heart hurts because I fell in love with this school—looking at other schools and trying to find what they offer is just impossible,” Robles said.

Citing ongoing financial challenges, SFUAD announced in an April 12 statement that it would be closing. So far, the university has established 11 partnerships with other institutions around the country, including Columbia, to help students with less than 36 credit hours transfer and finish their degree, according to the university’s website.

Other partnering institutions currently include Rocky

Mountain College of Art and Design, Columbia College Hollywood, Institute of American Indian Arts, University of New Mexico, Savannah College of Art and Design, Seattle Film Institute, McNally Smith College of Music, Academy of Art University and the New Hampshire Institute of Art.

Columbia is going to offer benefits to students to help facilitate the transferring process, according to Christine Guevara, SFUAD’s executive director of Student Affairs and Operations.

“Students are welcome to transfer to any institution they would like; there’s no limit, but the partner schools willing to go above and beyond for our students,” Guevara said. “Columbia has agreed to attempt to ensure out-of-pocket costs are similar to [those] students would have had at Santa Fe University. They have also committed to fast-tracking admission decisions and also maximizing transfer credits.”

SEE SANTA FE, PAGE 10

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<b>Thursday April 27</b> Groove Band in Concert	7:00 pm
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# Why aren't students attending collegewide events?

» KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

*Nearly all of the Columbia events and assemblies in recent semesters have received low student turnout regardless of how much publicity they receive.*

» CONNOR CARYNSKI  
CAMPUS REPORTER

**COLUMBIA'S WIDE SELECTION** of forums and assemblies offer opportunities for learning, building community and giving input to the administration about the college experience, but they often receive little student interest.

Students are the least represented group at college-sponsored assemblies, said Louis Silverstein, an associate professor in the Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department who has

helped organize events as part of the College Assembly.

Columbia had a very politically and socially active community when he joined the faculty in 1969, Silverstein said, noting that the low student involvement is because of the nonexistent sense of community.

"We would prefer that voices that represent the entire range of diversity be represented at the assemblies," Silverstein said. "A good number would be 100 or 200 students that would attend, but there are a whole bunch of reasons they don't."

Some examples of these events, often sponsored through the Office of the Provost and the College Assembly or through Student Affairs, include a feedback session on the new Core Curriculum at a recent meeting, which only had a handful of students attend and only one who voiced an opinion, as reported March 6 by The Chronicle. Similarly, during a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student Board Town Hall meeting, only seven students attended, despite email notification and posters displayed around campus, as reported Feb. 13 by The

Chronicle in addition to DEI Series events about issues of diversity that also received only a few student audience members.

A Feb. 21 forum on potential mergers and changes in the School of Media Arts also had minimal student attendance, as reported Feb. 27 by The Chronicle. Most recently, the April 10 assembly, "Let's Talk About Sex" had few students who attended outside of their classroom obligations.

Freshman fashion studies major Jane Van Amberg said she attends about 20 events every week and has met people who encouraged her to try new experiences but finds it upsetting when she is the only student attending.

"I have been to events where the only people in the audience are the performers and me, so that's a little bit frustrating," she said.

Silverstein said students have less time to attend assemblies because an increasing number need to work part- or full-time jobs to support themselves while attending college.

Other reasons for diminished attendance include the increased focus on technology instead of social participation and the fear that student voices will not make a difference, Silverstein said.

Some students may stay away because they are apprehensive about meeting new people and would rather spend time with friends, according to Van Amberg. Increased attendance, however, would make administrators more responsive to student concerns, she added.

Incoming Student Government Association President Malik Woolfork and current SGA President Kaela Ritter both declined comment. Spokesperson Anjali Julka also declined to comment on behalf of the administration and declined an interview with Senior Vice President and Provost Stan Wearden.

David Keys, coordinator of student leadership in the Dean of Students Office who assists student organizations like SGA in coordinating events and

SEE ATTENDANCE, PAGE 10





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## Fashion student's designs mix dessert with powerful women



Senior fashion studies major Colette Green created "Tubman" T-shirts that feature Harriet Tubman with an ice cream tattoo. The line will be introduced at her pop-up shop April 29 at Lil Epic Design, 2412 W. North Ave.

» **ARIANA PORTALATIN**  
CAMPUS EDITOR

**AFTER HEARING THE** news in April 2016 that historic abolitionist Harriet Tubman would be replacing former President Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill, senior fashion studies major Colette Green started thinking about what that bill would look like.

Also drawing from personal inspirations, Green created a design that would eventually be printed on T-shirts for her brand Mixed Sprinkles.

"Think of a sweet candy-land fantasy meets the streets of Chicago," Green said, explaining her new line. "Each piece is created to be worn by males and females that want clothing that is fun, fresh and fits their lifestyle."

The design features Tubman on pink, black or white T-shirts with an ice cream tattoo on Tubman's face. The idea for the tattoo, Green said, came from hip-hop artist Gucci Mane's similar tattoo.

To promote the brand's T-shirts, which will be introduced at her April 29 pop-up shop at Lil Epic Design, 2412 W. North Ave., Green and other models participated in a photoshoot in February to show off the tees and celebrate Black History Month.

Although Mixed Sprinkles was originally Green's social media handle, the name has a deeper meaning. The brand's name describes her ethnicity—as well as her life-long affinity for ice cream. She said it is her dream to one day sell her clothing from an ice cream truck.

"When I see people eat ice cream, it's always a happy moment," she said. "The 'Mixed' part comes from being black and white, and 'Sprinkles' just comes from being the best topping."

Green said she tends to design clothes that feature powerful women like Tubman, typically drawing her inspiration from unusual places.

"[Harriet Tubman] led hundreds of slaves down the underground railroad, and that's something that needs to be acknowledged," she said. "She has the biggest legacy to me."

Christian Cook, Mixed Sprinkles' public relations and marketing director and junior public relations major, said it was important for her to help let people know about the brand.

"I [thought], 'We should have a pop-up shop, we should get a social media page going to actually get your brand and product out there,'" Cook said.

One of the pop-up show's models, Asante Willis, a sophomore mathematics and computer science major at Harold Washington College and Green's friend, said he agreed to model for Mixed Sprinkles because he liked the idea of Tubman being on the \$20 bill and thought the design tells a story in a simple way.

"Harriet Tubman is inspiring because, as black people, it's really hard now to step up but with Harriet Tubman, she stepped up when it was even harder," Willis said. "It's like that light in the dark at the tunnel. She made fun in a serious story."

The brand has a consumer-minded focus and reflects values she has set in place, Green said.

"I have core values for my brand, which is fearless, fun and spontaneous because I feel that's what my brand exudes when you wear my clothing," she said. "That's what I want my customer to feel when they wear the clothing."

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BIGGEST MOUTH, FROM FRONT

» MARISA SOBOTKA  
CAMPUS REPORTER

**R&B SOUL ARTIST** and junior music major Anna Agosta took home first place after an electric performance for the nearly 400 people who attended Columbia's Biggest Mouth competition on April 20.

Agosta, along with six backing-band members, competed against 11 other groups for the 11th annual title at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. Like past winners, the band won a \$1,000 cash prize, a 10-hour session at I.V. Lab Studios and will be opening for the soon-to-be-announced Manifest headliner May 12.

The band has been working together for a year, but Agosta said this was its biggest performance to date. As a fan of the Metro venue, she said she has wanted to perform there and at Biggest Mouth since her freshman year.

"I have been here for multiple concerts before, and it has been a dream of mine to perform at Biggest Mouth," Agosta said. "It was a huge opportunity, and I am thankful we got to play together."

With controlled vocals and a tight musical performance, the crowd buzzed while Agosta performed her original song "Never Fall" with a soulful, upbeat sound. She said because the crowd interacted with her during the track, it

was easy for her to feed from that energy for her performance.

Agosta described the win as "unexpected," adding that she has plenty to work on before the Manifest performance but is excited for the opportunity.

Taking second place, alternative pop band JuiiX won the \$750 prize. Senior music major Kelsie Johnson has led the four-person band since meeting her bandmates her freshman year.

Johnson made her grand entrance by jumping out of a metallic chest in a full tutu ensemble along with the band, all dressed in silver metallic suits. With a strong stage presence and a unique beat, JuiiX closed out the performances of the night.

"It was an amazing experience," Johnson said. "I was overwhelmed by all the people, and it was great to see the reaction of the audience to my song."

The group previously won third place in the 2014 Biggest Mouth competition, but now as a senior with new a music style fusing different music genres, Johnson said the second place win was exciting.

"We were just feeling the audience and giving back everything in us," Johnson said. "I tried to put everything onstage so I could be proud of what I did before I left."

Indie-rock band Capital Soiree rounded out the winners in third



» G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE

Kelsie Johnson, lead vocalist for band JuiiX who won second place at the 2017 Biggest Mouth Competition, energized the crowd with her upbeat music and dance moves.

place, winning \$500. James Kourafas, guitarist and singer for the four-man group and sophomore audio arts and acoustics major, said the group has performed together for five years. But like Agosta, this was one of the band's biggest shows yet.

Capital Soiree quickly captured the crowd's attention with its on-stage chemistry, raspy voices and clean sound. Kaurafas added that he could not have asked for a better experience or group of people to work with.

Other bands and contestants included ABZU, Liquid Gardens,

Human Bloom, Lil Kydd, Ysa Yaneza, Amane Symone, BeeKay, Lipstick Frisbee and Forever Kyra.

Last year's winners and the 2017 Biggest Mouth hosts Jina Ballenger and Shantel Cribbs of ConSoul opened the show with a series of runs and free-styles and closed with a rendition of Chance the Rapper's "Sunday Candy."

Compared with the previous years' performances, the 2017 contestants provided more variety and unique sounds than ever before, said Elana Schmidt, Student Programming Board's director of Communication and sophomore business and entrepreneurship major.

"We wanted to make sure the performers that we selected had a great stage presence, can fill a stage and really hype up the crowd," Schmidt said. "We

picked the 12 top performers that we thought would get the crowd going and be different."

Claire Bernotavicius, SPB member and junior business and entrepreneurship major who attended the show, said it was good preparation to get the opener in the right headspace for Manifest.

She added that Agosta will fit in well with the planned headliner of the end of the year festival, which they are waiting to unveil.

"It exposes everyone to all the talent of your fellow classmates and gives the opportunity for us to see 12 amazing performers for free and at an actual venue," Bernotavicius said. "It encourages people to come together and appreciate this one aspect of our college."

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» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE

Imani Rousselle, lead vocalist of the experimental jazz band Human Bloom, gave a memorable performance.



Ysa Yaneza dominated the stage with her techno beats and vocals with backup dancers and guitarist.

» G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE



» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE

James Kaurafas, one of the vocalists for alternative band Capital Soiree, pumped up the crowd with his guitar skills.

Last year's winners, Shantel Cribbs and Jina Ballenger of ConSoul, hosted the 11th annual event.



» G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE



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SANTA FE, FROM 4

According to SFUAD's website, Columbia will also offer transfer students a minimum \$5,100 annual scholarship, a simplified application process and a residency policy waiver to accommodate up to 96 transferable credits toward a degree for those in good standing. A year as a full-time student at SFUAD currently costs \$18,424, according to the university's website. Columbia's annual tuition is currently \$25,580.

In an April 20 statement sent to The Chronicle, college spokeswoman Anjali Julka said several of Columbia's programs align with those at SFUAD, so students will be able to complete similar degrees. Julka denied interviews with President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim, Assistant Provost of Academic Services Brian Marth and Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Jeff Meece.

The April 20 statement also said the college completed transfer plans to help students have a clear path to completing their degree.

Columbia is also participating in transfer preparation on SFUAD's campus, meeting with students who will need to transfer.

This is not Columbia and SFUAD's first partnership, according to Susan Marcus, dean of instruction at Truman College. In 2009, when Marcus served as a tenured faculty member and assistant vice president at SFUAD, the university—then known as the College of Santa Fe—announced a closure that was never completed because the campus was bought by Laureate Education, a for-profit education company.

Marcus said she helped students transfer out of the college and also reached out to colleges for partnerships before taking a position as associate provost at Columbia during the summer of 2009, a position she left in 2014. Marcus said an estimated 40 students were transferred to Columbia during that time.

Columbia was a good fit for Santa Fe students because of their similar academic programs, Marcus added.

"I know [faculty] worked very hard to make that school successful," Marcus said. "It's a hard time, [and] I'm glad Columbia is again not only welcoming students, but I'm sure working with them to help those students be able to finish their degrees because it's not an easy circumstance to work through."

Although she is unsure how many students will transfer to Columbia, Guevara said approximately 500 students of the university's 700-student population will need to transfer.

In the April 20 statement, Julka said Columbia also does not know how many transfer students the college can expect.

"It is too early to determine what impact this will have on enrollment numbers, since many current and prospective SFUAD students are still reviewing their options," the statement said.

Jonathan Burton, a sophomore graphic design major at SFUAD, said he is upset he will have to transfer to another school and has not decided what school he will choose; although, he is considering

Columbia as an option and considers the chance to come to Chicago as a great opportunity.

Burton added that he is most worried about his credits transferring to another institution.

"It really sucks that I lose the opportunity and the bond I have with my teachers," Burton said. "Just the change is what's hard to deal with. At Santa Fe, all the classes are four credits depending on the length, and a lot of the institution's [classes] are three credits."

The university will be holding transfer fairs, which Robles said she will attend, hoping to speak with someone who is familiar with her profession.

Although Robles said she has interest in coming to Columbia, she is also looking into schools in California and Colorado.

"A lot of us called [SFUAD] a hidden gem, and I just hope I get to find another school offering what they did here and hopefully help me with financial aid like they've been helping me here," Robles said.

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ATTENDANCE, FROM 6

provides general support, said student organizations and clubs aim to build a sense of community on campus and ensure that students are connecting with each other outside of academic settings.

"I am a huge promoter of [attending] different events or programs on campus," Keys said. "You can feel like you are a part of a grander community. Studies show that students who are involved outside of the classroom do a lot better and actually graduate from college."

Although he thinks students are regularly engaging with the campus, Keys said there is always room for improvement and he would value student input on how the college could better engage with students.

In order to see improvements, Silverstein said Columbia needs to regain the sense of community it once had.

"The truth is, if enough students voice their opinion here, things would change," Silverstein said.

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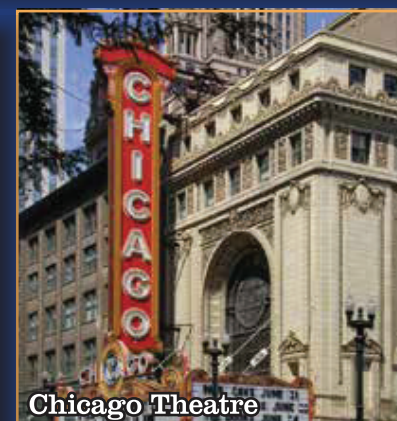
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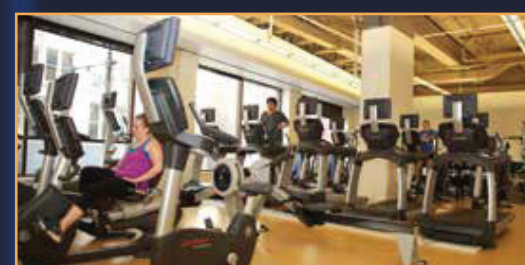


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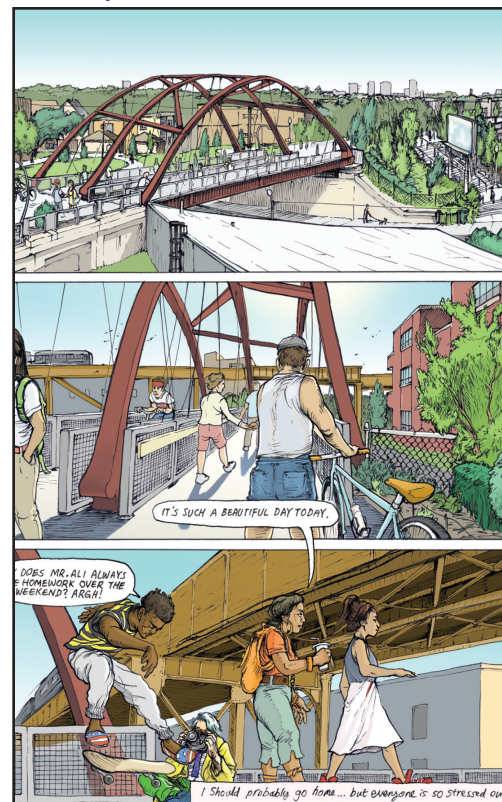
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demos | music

**6**  
Center for Black Music  
Research (618 South Michigan)  
music





» Photos Courtesy CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION



# Graphic novel to open up imagination about civic, urban engagement

» **ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI**  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

**ARTIST, ILLUSTRATOR AND** educator Devin Mawdsley knew it was time to create an arts collective when he heard about the Chicago Architecture Foundation's plan to create a new educational graphic novel for local high school students.

"No Small Plans," illustrated by Mawdsley's newly formed collective Eyes of the Cat, was created with the Chicago Architecture Foundation to visually teach local high school students about urban planning, architecture and civic engagement. The collective includes Mawdsley, Kayce Bayer, Chris Lin and Deon Reed—all artists active in Chicago's arts community.

The novel, based on Walter D. Moody's 1911 textbook "Wacker's Manual," combines arts, education and architecture in a 144-page color graphic novel. The narrative follows the experiences of teens in Chicago's past, present and future as they grapple with what it will take to design the city they want, need and deserve.

"It's really important stuff for future citizens of the municipality, especially since we are concentrated—as a nation and as the

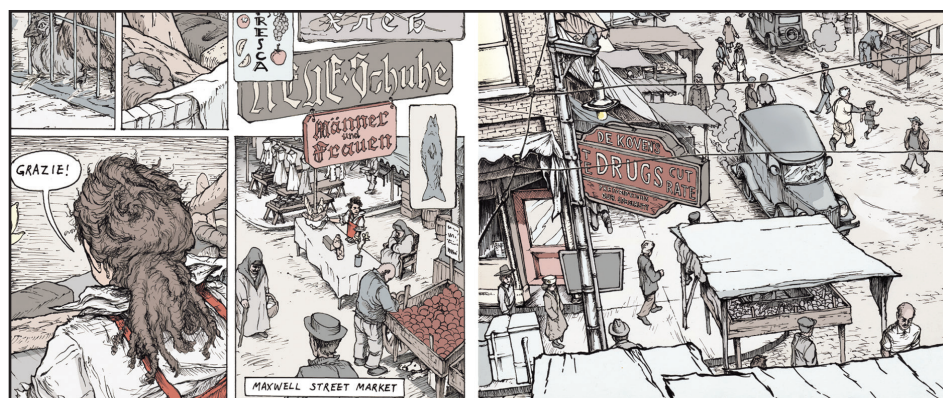
world—into urban spaces," said Mawdsley, a teacher at the Chicago High School for the Arts in Humboldt Park along with Bayer and Lin.

The reinvention of the book with the engaging concept of the graphic novel drew him to the project, which he found out about from Gabrielle Lyon, CAF's vice president of education and experience, when she publicly called for artists to help create the novel in 2015.

"No Small Plans" is complete and will be distributed for free to Chicago Public Schools in September and take the place of "Wacker's Manual." Lyon said CPS schools have already shown a great demand for the novel, and teachers can request it for their class.

Lyon said the demand has poured in not only locally, but nationally. She added that a freshman class taught by Joan Giroux of the Art & Art History Department at Columbia in the Fall 2017 Semester called "Chicago: Access, Activism, Agency" will use the book.

The novel, which is currently being funded on Kickstarter to raise a printing budget, will be sent to press in May and available in July. In August, CAF will host



*"No Small Plans," the new graphic novel by arts collective Eyes of the Cat and the Chicago Architecture Foundation, brings Chicago's urban past and present to the page and pushes high school students to question what civic engagement and urban planning will look like in the future of their city.*

a teacher training in time for the book's classroom use in September.

CPS and the Chicago Public Library had a hand in contributing the historical information to the book as well as distributing it for free to students.

"Especially in Chicago, we have a lot of kids with very little access to what are supposedly our collective assets because of a lack of funding and inequity," Mawdsley said. "Our narrative is trying to reveal and compel the understanding, the importance and certain roles of civic engagement and concepts around urban planning."

Bayer, who is well-versed in Chicago's history and its flaws, came on board to showcase the city's rich architectural tradition while encouraging arts and education, she said. Along with giving students a better understanding of design and civic engagement, Bayer said the visual teaching approach makes the novel stand out.

"[The students] are very visually savvy; [the novel] feels more real and puts them in the space," Bayer said. "It was one of the reasons why we wanted it to be kids on the ground moving through the city as a way to see themselves, see those places and make connections to the world they are in."

Lyon said Eyes of the Cat was a perfect fit for the novel because all the artists represent part of the novel's story; having teachers from Chicago High School for the Arts and Reed, a CPS graduate, bolstered their impact on the novel.

"The project comes at a really critical time," Lyon said. "People do care about young people, civic engagement, the built environment—we have hit a nerve. People understand how important this project is and the artwork is amazing."

aparrella@chroniclemail.com



» ZOË EITEL  
MANAGING EDITORThat's a  
*wrap*

## Freeform needs to slow down

With "Pretty Little Liars" finally ending in the coming weeks and "Switched at Birth" closing out with its April 11 series finale, Freeform is set to lose two of its most popular shows.

The network, formerly ABC Family, is overcompensating with four new shows—one of which will premiere this July and the others in 2018. It also already had two shows join the network this year.

"Famous in Love" stars Bella Thorne of "Shake it Up" fame as a high schooler-turned-"it girl" and premiered April 18. "Beyond" started in January 2017 and is about a teen who wakes up after 12 years in a coma and finds he has special abilities. Both had decent ratings, and "Beyond" was quickly renewed for a second season after the first started.

The renewal is good news for a network that has a history of one-season flops such as "Ravenswood," "Twisted," "Bunheads" and "The Nine Lives of Chloe King." But from the look of the upcoming shows announced at Freeform's 2017 Upfront Presentation April 19, the network might have overplayed its hand.

Though the trailer for "The Bold Type," the show starting this summer inspired by the life and career of Cosmopolitan Editor-in-Chief Joanna Coles, looks like the show has potential to be the hit to replace what Freeform is losing, the others do not. The other three trailers show almost no real plot and don't give viewers much to look forward to. Instead, they rely on flashy effects, confusing action sequences, fake mystery, funnyish one-liners and attractive actors.

Following in the footsteps of The CW, ABC, FOX and Netflix, Freeform released a trailer for a superhero show, "Marvel's Cloak and Dagger." But where those networks created interest and intrigue with their shows, all Freeform did with its trailer was breed confusion and indifference. All viewers know at the end of the trailer is that the show will star two teens who are connected in some way and might have superpowers, but the potential powers took a backseat to the "mysterious" relationship between the characters and a shoddy attempt at world-building.



As if one new fantastical show isn't enough, Freeform will also be hosting "Siren," a show about a—wait for it—mysterious town that was apparently once home to mermaids before the main character's ancestor slaughtered them all. But of course, once he comes to town, a mermaid decides to pop up, and craziness ensues. Mermaids are always cool in my book; however, I'm skeptical about this show, and that has less to do with the storyline and more with the inauthentic seeming melodrama and terrible dialogue.

"Mermaid? OK, that was a good one," said by the main character, and "You're like a little girl," told to the mermaid character by a very pedophilic guy before he gets killed in a very bloody way.

At least the mermaid has no time for creepy, misogynistic behavior.

A sitcom called "Alone Together" is another that seems very iffy, but it could actually have potential because of its creators: The Lonely Island comedy trio led by Andy Samberg of "Saturday Night Live" fame. The trailer offers a few funny lines, but the humor mostly relies on being as trendy and relevant as possible. "The walk of shame is an anti-feminist construct," "You're not a feminist, you're just too lazy to walk."

Other than "The Bold Type," none of these shows seem as if they'll be around longer than a freshman season, and Freeform will be back where it started, trying to fill its roster with shows that could be described as "Things The CW Rejected."

zeitel@chroniclemail.com



Friday, April 28

TYCHO

Riviera Theatre  
4746 N. Racine Ave.  
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Monday, April 24

YO-YO MA

Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
220 S. Michigan Ave.  
8 p.m.  
\$75

Friday, April 28

TIMBRE TIMBRE

Lincoln Hall  
2424 N. Lincoln Ave.  
9 p.m.  
\$20, 21+

Thursday, April 27

ALLIE X

Lincoln Hall  
2424 N. Lincoln Ave.  
7:30 p.m.  
\$15 advance / \$20 door

Saturday, April 29

THE JAYHAWKS

Thalia Hall  
1807 S. Allport St.  
8 p.m.  
\$26

## FROM THE FRONT ROW

Leela James, R&B and soul singer-songwriter, performed April 17 at House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St.



» G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE



# Tea on tap: Kombucha bar opening in Logan Square

» **BLAIR PADDOCK**  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

**FLAVORS OF FERMENTED** tea that include rosemary, pineapple and jalapeño are among the 20 that will be on tap at The Kombucha Room, 2355 N. Milwaukee Ave., opening April 29. Logan Square's taproom will feature

kombucha, a drink that originated in Japan, from brewers in Chicago and the Midwest. Owner Mel Mohamednur said she hopes the all-ages bar will encourage uninitiated drinkers to try the tea and explore its health benefits.

"Quite a lot of people drink kombucha, quite a lot of people brew kombucha," Mohamednur said. "The tea-drinking culture is here, [but] it's just not crazy about kombucha yet, so hopefully we'll be the first in leading the lifestyle."

The bar will offer tastings of each tea with to-go options in shot-size, 8 ounce, pint and 32-ounce glasses, Mohamednur said.

Also available are snacks and cupcakes, such as spiced nuts from Chicago-owned Bee's Knees Food Co. The business

will provide patrons a bar-like atmosphere without alcohol, she added.

Matthew Lancor will supply kombucha from his Plainfield-based company Kombuchade. While brewers' processes vary, he said they all start with brewing large batches of all organic herbal teas, then adding in other herbs depending on the desired flavor. A symbiotic culture of bacteria is added to the tea, which creates a gelatinous "pancake" on the surface of the liquid, sealing oxygen away from the bacteria in the liquid. This fermentation process typically lasts for 5–10 days, creating probiotics and various vitamins.

"Fermentation kind of has a bad rap," Lancor said. "When people think of it, beer, wine or meats [comes to mind]. [However, it also] creates kimchi

and pickled vegetables."

Although there is no clinical data on health benefits, Mohamednur said in her experience, drinking it boosts energy and helps her digestive system.

"Overtime, my taste buds changed," Mohamednur said. "Changing your diet [will make] you want to eat healthier food."

Brewer Frog Greishaw will be providing her tea, Frog Juice, on tap at the bar as well. As a former bartender, she discovered drinking the tea was a hangover cure. The tea contains glucaric acid, which is great for the liver, she added.

"The biggest benefit of kombucha is probiotics," Greishaw said. "Eighty percent of your immune system is in your gut, so it's important to get healthy bacteria in there." Mohamednur said she

hopes people get into this nationwide trend of drinking this tea, something Lancor said the Midwest and East Coast has recently been embracing.

"There's a lag between the coasts and Chicago, and the tidal wave for kombucha is here," Lancor said.

The Kombucha Room, 2355 N. Milwaukee Ave., will serve kombucha on tap starting April 29.

THE **Kombucha** ROOM

PHOTOS KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

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# 'Daughters' unite to show powerful, mythic Irish women

» KENDRAH VILLIESSE  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

**AFTER READING MEDIEVAL** Irish tales about King Arthur, writer-performer Savanna Rae noticed a lack of strong and powerful female characters.

She later found that they existed in Irish mythology as powerful cultural symbols.

After extensive research, Rae said she decided to create monologues that uncover the powerful women of Irish legend and their fascination with violence in a mythic narrative.

Written by and starring Rae, "Daughters of Ire" is a one-woman play that tells the tale of these women. Showing at the Beverly Art Center, 2407 W. 111 St., April 27-30, the stories capture the perspectives of legendary heroines

such as Queen Medb, Scáthach, Deirdre and Uathach, all Irish folklore characters.

Their stories point to a cultural image of strong and sometimes violent women, Rae added.

The figures in these stories were often known for their beauty and not their physical ability, said Marion McFadden, a mythology artist in County Donegal, Ireland.

"People don't see these women other than seeing them through the way the guys described them," McFadden said. "There is a thing about history being written by the victor and being his story and how he perceives her."

When Rae was a senior at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, the 2014 theater alumna began performing monologues from perspectives of these women for her gender studies course.

After graduation, Rae said she workshoped her scenes wherever she could think to, including churches, schools and her friends' living rooms, just so she could get feedback for her work.

The play caught the attention of The Other Theatre Company in 2015 and was turned into a full 75-minute piece. BroadwayWorld.com then named "Daughters of Ire" as the Best New Work of 2015.

"These stories are difficult stories," said director Carin Silkaitis. "What happened to these women are difficult conversations, and you are talking about women leading people into war, fighting for their lives and being kidnapped and sequestered away."

The playwright believes these characters are challenging the masculinity usually associated with violence, Silkaitis said.

"Even though they are very stereotypically feminine, there is this mistaken thought saying



» Courtesy SAVANNA RAE

"Daughters of Ire," a one-woman show that captures the stories of five women in Irish mythology, will be at the Beverly Art Center, 2407 W. 111 St., April 27-30.

that automatically means weak," according to Rae. "That feminine automatically means weak. There are super aggressive and violent

women, but they are able to be vulnerable as well."

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# Summit uses art to bring human rights issues to light



» Courtesy POZEN FAMILY CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

*"What is an Artistic Practice of Human Rights?" a summit of artists around the world, will be held at Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th St., April 29-May 1.*

» KENDRAH VILLIESSE  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

**FILM, PERFORMANCE ART,** video installation and lectures will put a focus on human rights issues around the world at the upcoming University of Chicago Summit.

The summit, "What is an Artistic Practice of Human Rights?" will be held at the Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th St., April 29-May 1 and will feature seven international artists. Presented by the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, the Logan

Center for the Arts and the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, the summit will delve into current human rights issues such as refugee identity and gun violence.

"The idea is to gather artists who create work that either deals with human rights on a content level or as activist work," said Mike Schuh, program coordinator at the Gray Center for the Arts and Inquiry.

The summit's purpose is to address how art can address and affect human rights' issues, and all of the artists' work reflects an issue they are passionate about, according to Schuh.

The idea for the summit originated two years ago with members of the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights. After deciding that artists were central to the project, they decided to collaborate with other art centers in the area, according to Leslie Danzig, assistant professor of Practice in the

Arts of Theater and Performance Studies at U of C.

The summit is also working with "In Acts" a group exhibition of the artists' works at the Weinberg/Newton Gallery, 300 W. Superior St., which is held until June 10.

For the last 12 years, Carlos Javier Ortiz, a Chicago-based photographer and filmmaker who will be showing two short films, has captured images of the city's violence to show the ramifications of gun violence to a broader audience.

"I started following their stories and asking questions," Ortiz said. "It is not really going to change anything, but it is about coming together to talk about each other's practice and how we as artists bring these issues to light individually and collectively."

The artists participating in the summit are also interacting with U of C students in "Art and Human Rights," a course Danzig

co-teaches that focuses on the artistic expression of human rights around the world, she said.

"We have good reason to believe there will be insight into the specifics of what these artists are working on, how they are working, what challenges they face and how they think," Danzig said.

Schuh said the artists have created intense and ambitious projects that will make the audience see what is at stake and question what they can do to help resolve these issues.

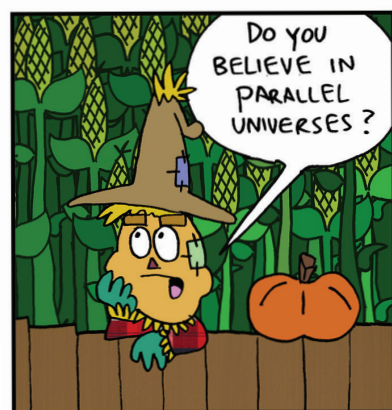
"The notion of the summit [is] we are here to get together and really think about these things and work about these things and do that through the work of these artists and the organizers," Schuh said.

*"What is an Artistic Practice of Human Rights?" is free and open to the public.*

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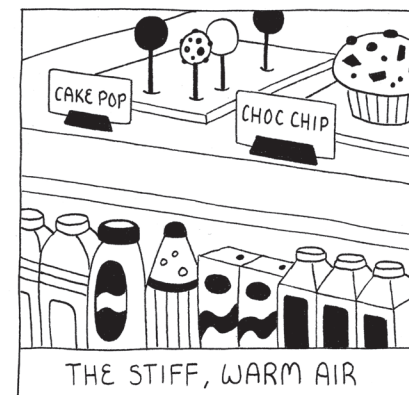
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# Turning the page:

## Chicago independent bookstores tell unique story

Story by Marisa Sobotka

Design by James Tsitiridis

**W**alk into a local bookstore and browse the aisles. Run your fingers over the spines of books holding infinite possibilities and sneak a peek inside the cover. It's a different experience from scrolling a webpage with a limited summary and mysterious consumer ratings.

Online retail giant Amazon may have learned this lesson. The company—more of a universal marketplace than a bookstore these days—finally decided to open brick-and-mortar bookstores 13 years after being founded, including a Lakeview location that opened March 21.

With the bright, easily recognizable Amazon logo appearing for the first time on a Chicago building, the shop is hard to miss. Books from all genres classified by their popularity and Amazon ratings cover shelves alongside the latest Amazon gadgets including the Echo and Kindle—which may be the company's real sales goal. Amazon didn't respond to requests for comment as of press time.

The company says the new branch of Amazon Books is an attempt to revolutionize the buying and selling of literature in Chicago, but according

to a 2014 study held by Civic Economics, Amazon has hurt local businesses. The study states that in 2014, Amazon sold more than \$1.8 billion worth of retail goods in Illinois alone—about the average sales of 1,298 small businesses and a possible state and local tax revenue loss of up to \$59.8 million.

In response, Chicago's independent bookstores have come together to show that Amazon's discounts and convenience do not mean as much in the bookselling industry as community engagement and specialized services.

More than 20 independent bookstores in Chicago joined forces in the summer of 2016 to create The Chicagoland Independent Bookstore Alliance—just as Amazon announced its bookstore's opening.

Rebecca George, owner of Wicker Park's Volumes Bookcafe and one of ChiBa's founders, said the group formed to spread “collective messaging” about independent bookstores' programming and to highlight their value to the Chicago community.

“We do not look at [Amazon Books] as competition, and people need to be reminded that, to us, [customers]

are not a number,” George said. “We integrate and work with the community, schools, neighborhood organizations, host book clubs and have community discussions to show the strength of localism.”

Another member of ChiBa and co-owner of Andersonville's Women & Children First bookstore Lynn Mooney has observed the effects of Amazon on locally owned businesses. She said the corporation is largely “reactive” in terms of what it carries and promotes.

Though the opening of Amazon Books in Chicago was the catalyst for the bookstore collective, Mooney said competition will not be its only motivation. She said the members work together to show the “energy and vitality” their bookstores bring to the city, with events such as ChiBa's upcoming bookstore crawl on April 29 to celebrate International Independent Bookstore Day.

The Chronicle visited other Chicagoland bookstores that offer unique services to revitalize “bookstore tourism” in the city.

[msobotka@chroniclemail.com](mailto:msobotka@chroniclemail.com)



kibbitznest books, brews & blarney | 2212 N. Clybourn Ave., Lincoln Park

**KIBBITZNEST IS PART** bookstore, part bar, part nonprofit. In what used to be a 1920s factory, exposed brick and wood ceiling enclose books of all genres—including gender studies, politics and religion.

Owner Anne Neri Kostiner, who opened kibbitznest in October 2016, said she wanted to create a space that could “preserve the quality of human connection” by promoting a balance of in-person and electronic communication.

The store’s full bar is equipped with more than 30 beer and wine selections, specialty cheese plates, Vienna beef hot dogs and homemade ice cream for readers and browsers.

In a separate room, a “wifi-free” sign hangs above a set of antique typewriters for patrons. “Genuine human interaction”

is hand-painted on a wall that leads to a room full of used books.

“There are so many people that communicate online, and that’s OK as long as we don’t overdo or it doesn’t overtake our need to communicate as human beings,” Kostiner said.

kibbitznest also hosts monthly discussions and intellectual panels. Patrons can write poems on typewriters and hang them on the wall, play board games, or read a book about philosophy written for children—with a glass of wine—during their lunch break.

“It is not earth-shattering and is not changing the world,” Kostiner said. “I am just raising awareness that for a least an hour a day, come on in, unplug and take a look at the things around you.”



Occult Bookstore | 1164 N. Milwaukee Ave., Ukrainian Village

**SPIRITUALITY AND MYSTERY** have been the specialties of this Chicago-based bookstore for the last 98 years.

Described as a “spiritual metaphysical bookstore” by current owner Louvel Delon, the shop opened in 1918 to provide what clients would use in their “daily spiritual practices.”

Delon, a Chicago native who took over the shop 11 years ago from the original owner D.G. Nelson, became interested in the occult as a 16-year-old.

“The store is a place that saved me,” Delon said. “I was at a formative age

searching for something, and the oddity of the bookstore combined with the taboo of the book [topics] is what made it interesting.”

The shop sells a variety of products including tarot cards, gems and herbs along with books on religions, holistic and self-healing practices, astrology, and other spiritual topics.

The store’s brick walls are covered with art by local artists as well as handmade jewelry and sculptures.

The bookstore also offers classes by practitioners who have worked in their respective fields for more than 20 years. These classes and events include weekly discussions called “Coffee Clutch,” defensive magic classes and movie nights at which customers can discuss the spiritual significance found in old films.

While Amazon Books can provide customers with discounts and a “convenience factor,” according to Delon, independent bookstores will continue to focus on the “little things” that mean more to the community.

“We will give you our insight and what we have been through, which you are never going to get at a big chain bookstore,” Delon said.



Read It & Eat | 2141 N. Halsted St., Lincoln Park

**NOT ONLY DOES** this North Side store carry books about every type of food and cooking technique, it also sports a fully functional kitchen and culinary school.

Owner and founder Esther Dairiam describes it as a “destination for culinary books and events.”

Dairiam said she opened the shop in May 2016 after visiting a culinary bookstore in Paris. She added that the store fulfills Chicago’s need for a place that sells specialized cookbooks while providing a hands-on culinary experience.

“We are more than a bookstore, and we are more than a casual or social cooking school,” Dairiam said. “We have tried to look for ways to combine different events, products and content so it provides a differentiated experience.”

The shop holds events for food enthusiasts, homecooks, chefs and restaurant owners including pop-up dinners, cooking classes, author demonstrations and private events, such as a signing with cookbook author Serena Wolf.

Dairiam said that Chicago independent bookstores often plan experiences for patrons, and because Read It & Eat focuses on food, its kitchen offers customers something new.

“We have got every book that [Amazon Books] offers and more,” she said. “People who come to us continue to come to us because of the experience, and people who have always shopped at Amazon will continue to shop [there].”



Open Books | 651 W. Lake St., West Loop

**CELEBRATING ITS 10TH** anniversary in May, Open Books began in the basement of founder Stacy Ratner’s home where she collected books and used them to help students learn reading and writing skills.

Now located in the West Loop, the shop is covered in bright pastel bookshelves holding hundreds of used books.

The store’s Director of Marketing Curtis Flagg said the bookstore is a “nonprofit social venture” that specializes in literacy programs and selling used books.

“Our mission is transforming lives through reading, writing and the unlimited power of used books,” Flagg said.

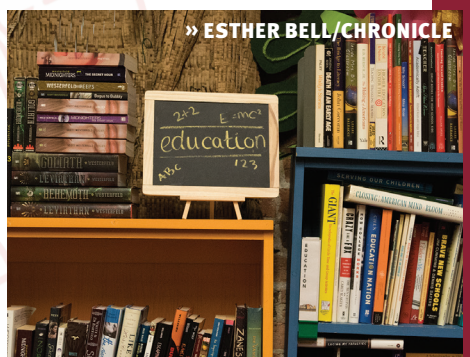
The shop works with Chicago Public Schools students as well as those in neighboring suburbs.

One of the programs, “reading buddies,” has volunteers who work with students to build reading skills.

The store also offers a creative writing workshop at which students learn to write short stories and read for a live audience.

“They see how their words translate into an active piece, and they are legitimate authors at this point in time; that is a lot of people’s bucket lists,” Flagg said.

Open Books funds its programs with the sales from its used books.



Special programs and community outreach drive the success of independent bookstores in Chicago and set them apart from larger companies, Flagg said.

“There is a connection to the community that is very genuine and authentic,” Flagg said.

He said the business prides itself on its staff and volunteers who have a true passion for reading and literacy, adding that no money could buy what having a conversation with employees provides for customers.

“At the end of the day, we aren’t looking to make big bucks,” he said. “We sustain ourselves with books, but our end game in this matter is to provide a resource for the community through literacy.”



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# BAGEL AND CREAM CHEESE

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» BLAIR PADDOCK  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

“Fruit Punch” quenches listeners’ thirst with uplifting, jubilant beats paired with summer-reminiscent lyrics. It’s a hit for hip-hop artist Kaiydo.

At 20, musician and visual artist Keiondre Boone, who records as Kaiydo, has gained popularity with this song, which has more than eight million plays on Spotify. He said he takes after artist Jean-Michel Basquiat as both display chaos with a deeper meaning in their art. The Orlando-based musician captures the jauntiness of summer with his latest releases “Jumpin,” “Lottery” and “Reflections.”

He will be performing April 25 alongside artists Boogie, Kemba and Michael Christmas at the Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St.

The Chronicle spoke with Kaiydo about his upcoming album, musical influences, and the Orlando music scene.

**THE CHRONICLE: Who do you take your musical inspiration from?**  
**KAIYDO:** I’m inspired by this generation of artists coming out. Because of the internet, they’re coming to the forefront and showing their talent without any middlemen.

# Kaiydo serves ‘Fruit Punch’ for summer



» Courtesy CANON JOSH  
Rapper Kaiydo captures the essence of summer and carefree fun with his latest singles, including his Soundcloud hit “Fruit Punch.” He will performing April 25 at the Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St.

**How has visual artist Jean-Michel Basquiat inspired you artistically?**  
It’s hard to answer how he directly inspired me, but I would say by his story and how he communicated through his art. My art—the artwork from my songs is artistically driven—I always have a vision for it. [His art] doesn’t look like it’s anything too deep

or life-changing. But when you actually go and look at it for days, it’s like his own little world. It doesn’t look like anything, but it has such dark and meaningful undertones.

**Can listeners expect an album soon?**  
[There is] definitely a mixtape coming out soon that I’ve been working on, around

summer. I started off with the lighthearted stuff to build toward [more serious music]. I’m more than just a kid that goes to parties and turns up. I have an actual story I want to tell. There will be other stuff on there that people aren’t used to hearing from me.

**What is the Orlando hip-hop scene like?**  
It’s developing. I feel like we have a good underdog story going on right now that will turn a lot of heads. For the last decade, people have looked over Central Florida and went straight to Miami. The youth [in Orlando] are really talented.

**Did you anticipate the sudden internet success of your music?**  
I expected it around my city to turn a few heads. I wasn’t focused necessarily on the internet when I first started. The only hip-hop scene I was really around was in my city, but then [my music] just started taking off around internet, blogs and Soundcloud. It was a good opportunity [to put my music out there] and a month later I put more music out, and it built on top of that. Honestly, I stayed up for about two days sitting at my computer looking at the blogs. After that, it just took off on its own.

bpaddock@chroniclemail.com

▶ Fun in the sun...

Staff Playlist  
open.spotify.com/user/thecolumbiachronicle

» ARABELLA BRECK MANAGING EDITOR	» NOAH KELLY MARKETING CONSULTANT	» LAUREN KOSTIUK DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER	» MICHA THURSTON MARKETING CONSULTANT
“Big Beautiful Day” PWR BTTM	“Kinder Blumen” Real Estate	“CHA CHA” D.R.A.M.	“Cole Summer” J. Cole
“Season 2 Episode 3” Glass Animals	“YAH.” Kendrick Lamar	“Come Down” Anderson Paak	“Old School” Tupac
“T-Shirt Weather” Circa Waves	“Night Drive” Part Time	“Sunny Duet” Noname	“Beautiful Girls” Sean Kingston
“Sweetest Talk” Habibi	“Summertime” Girls	“Island In The Sun” Weezer	“Way Back” Amber Mark
“California” Childish Gambino	“Shake It Up” The Cars	“The Girl From Ipanema” Frank Sinatra	“Nothin’ But a G Thang” Dr. Dre



# CHECK *me* OUT

WHAT FASHION TREND DO YOU WISH NEVER EXISTED?

» PHOTOS BY KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE



**Meg Caldwell**  
junior creative writing major

*"I hate moon boots. They're ugly, and I don't know why people are trying to bring them back."*



**Chris Neighbors**  
freshman cinema art and science major

*"I'm going to have to go with the double XL T-shirts—first time I saw those was the Soulja Boy video."*



**Rachel Flynn**  
freshman business and entrepreneurship major

*"Leg Warmers. I saw someone wear leg warmers yesterday, and I just wish they never existed."*



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# Prosciutto roses on watermelon

» **WESLEY HEROLD**  
SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

This refreshing and elegant snack will likely impress friends and family, despite its minimal preparation and no cooking time. The prosciutto's saltiness pairs nicely with the sweetness of the watermelon, and the basil adds a nice kick of complexity into the mix.

[wherold@chroniclemail.com](mailto:wherold@chroniclemail.com)

## Ingredients

- 1/2 watermelon, cubed
- 12 slices of prosciutto
- 12 basil leaves with stems

## Directions

1. Place prosciutto slices in freezer for about 10 minutes to make them easier to handle.
2. On a flat surface, take corner of the prosciutto slice, start rolling tightly at first while pinching the bottom, begin to loosen until it resembles a rose.
3. Cube watermelon into 1-inch by 1-inch cubes.
4. Place basil leaf on top of each watermelon cube and a prosciutto rose on top of the basil leaf.
5. Serve and enjoy!



» WESLEY HEROLD AND ZOË HAWORTH/CHRONICLE

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# top

our staff's  
top 5 picks:

## video & blog reviews



### Video: "...2D & Murdoc from Gorillaz."

The new Gorillaz album is about to be released—with music videos already on YouTube—and with a new album comes new interviews. Forget Damon Albarn, the brains behind the first ever "manufactured" band, and spend time watching the Cockney cartoon stylings of band members 2D and Murdoc.



### Blog: "Makeup Tips"

Ever wonder how to get the perfect contour? Do you know what shade of eyeshadow is perfect for you? This blog supplies you with all the tips and tricks you need to get that flawless look you've been dying for. From "Smokey Eyes" to beautiful blush—makeup lovers can find it all here. If you don't like to wear a lot of makeup, have no fear, it has natural looks too.

### WORST MARVEL COMIC EVENT STORIES

» ERIC BRADACH  
METRO EDITOR

#### "Civil War":

A superhero registration act requires all superpowered people to reveal their identities to the government and work as soldiers. The story fails because of extremely poor, repetitive dialogue and character assassinations.

#### "Civil War 2":

In Marvel's dull version of "Minority Report," a man named Ulysses discovers he can predict the future. This leads to an uneventful drag with no surprises, consequences or character development.

#### "Secret Invasion":

The Skrulls capture and pose as numerous superheroes. This 30-years-too-late communist paranoia story, in which everyone is suspicious and accuses one another of being the enemy, wraps up with a lackluster battle in Central Park. The story leaves too many unanswered questions.

#### "Ultimatum":

Doctor Doom manipulates an implausible series of events to trick Magneto into destroying the Earth. In this story, several superheroes pointlessly die off-panel, and the artwork is beyond grotesque.

#### "One More Day":

This four-part Spider-Man story caused me to stop reading comics for years. Peter Parker makes a deal with the villain, Mephisto, to save his Aunt May from dying. The caveat: He has to break up his marriage with Mary Jane Watson and erase its entire history. In a pathetic, editorially driven story, Marvel destroys years of character development.

### BEACH ESSENTIALS

» CAROLINE BOWEN  
METRO REPORTER

#### Sunscreen:

Nobody likes sporting a bright shade of red on their skin, or the chilly-but-hot feeling you get while lying in bed after a long day at the beach. Lather on the sunscreen and don't be afraid of SPF 50. Tans are overrated.

#### An iced beverage:

Remember the water bottle you left sitting on your kitchen table that ended up warm? Me, too. Whether you fill your water bottle up with iced coffee, soda or a brew, staying hydrated while soaking up those rays is essential to feeling good.

#### Sunglasses:

The right pair of specs can make any beach outfit go from decent to exceptional. Not only do they look stylish, but they can prevent glaucoma. I proudly rock a pair of knock-off Ray Ban sunglasses.

#### A book:

Escape to a mythical world or become the hero in the thrilling plot of your dreams as you kick back on the beach. A good book lets you be alone, but with ethereal characters who make the world feel a little more exciting.

#### Sun hat:

A sun hat keeps the rays off your skin. It will be the cherry on top of your outfit and a good conversation starter with that stranger sitting near you. My current hat of choice? A fern green baseball cap with a little crocheted beagle on the front.

### BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN SONGS

» JACKIE MURRAY  
METRO REPORTER

#### "Dancing in the Dark":

This is the song that first sparked my love for "The Boss." The pop beat, lyrics and, of course, saxophone make me feel as if I'm strutting around with Springsteen, wearing my mom jeans circa 1984.

#### "The River":

This song is quite different from his usual tone and features a suave harmonica that offers some Bob Dylan vibes. It has a darker feel with lyrics detailing his sister's and brother-in-law's struggles with life in a small town.

#### "Born in the USA":

If not listened to or examined closely, this song can be deceiving. Springsteen explains the harmful effects of the Vietnam War on the country—for which he received criticism at the time—set to a foot-thumping, fist-pumping beat. Not your typical patriotic Fourth of July jam; Springsteen was woke for the times.

#### "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out":

One of the more old-school Springsteen tunes, "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out" has a jazzy tone with the help from his E Street Band and features his passionate vocals. Definitely a song to pump up the volume and boogie to.

#### "Born to Run":

This is best sung at the top of your lungs. Written in the mid-1970s as one of Springsteen's last attempts to gain fame, the song details the desperate need to get out of a small town and make it big. Also, let's talk about Clarence Clemons' saxophone solo.





## INSTAGRAM UPDATE



» **ARIANA PORTALATIN**  
CAMPUS EDITOR

Facebook announced more offline features April 17 for its Instagram app. Although some offline functions are already available, new features will include leaving comments, liking posts, saving photos and unfollowing people—all of which will update once the user has service. These helpful developments are perfect for those with unreliable internet service.

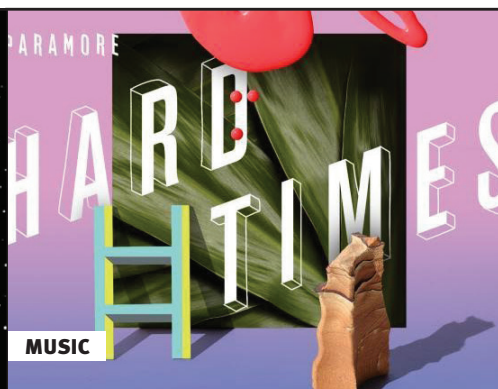


## 'STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI' TRAILER



» **ERIC BRADACH**  
METRO EDITOR

It's finally here. The debut trailer of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," released April 14, shows Rey training in the ways of the force with Luke Skywalker and the Resistance's struggle against the First Order. Watching the trailer was almost embarrassing because I had to hold back nerdy tears of joy and excitement, which proved quite difficult. By the looks of the trailer, fans are in for a good movie.



## PARAMORE'S 'HARD TIMES'



» **BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

It feels like forever since a new Paramore song played on the radio. Unfortunately, "Hard Times," released April 19, isn't a great comeback for the trio. There's nothing substantial about the track, including its anticlimatic bridge and boring chorus. Paramore had a great run in the pop-punk era, but this song shows a downward slope, proving nothing exciting is on the horizon.



## STARBUCKS' UNICORN FRAPPUCINO



» **ZOË EITEL**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Though this colorful drink is very pretty, I hope Starbucks nixes it from its menu. The frap's fruitiness is interesting and not completely intolerable, but the cream cheese whipped topping is disgusting. The topping is sprinkled with what looks like a dusting of dyed sugar but is actually the most sour candy I've ever tasted—which wouldn't be as terrible if it was expected.



## GOOGLE EARTH UPDATE



» **CONNOR CARYNSKI**  
CAMPUS REPORTER

As if people didn't already spend too much time exploring our beautiful Earth from their laptops, the latest update for Google Earth will make it easier for users to view the innumerable natural and man-made wonders of the world. The update comes with an added voyager feature and "I'm Feeling Lucky" button, making it as easy as a Google search to explore any historical or cultural landmark around the world.

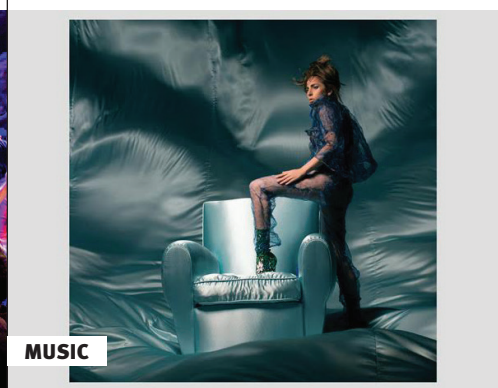


## SNL'S TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE



» **CAROLINE BOWEN**  
METRO REPORTER

"Saturday Night Live" went live, in a special coast-to-coast episode April 15, and Jimmy Fallon brought the house down singing "Let's Dance" like Bowie's long lost twin brother. As he strutted backstage, Harry Styles swapped places with Fallon and started lip-syncing. Styles' voice couldn't compete with Fallon's ability to imitate the late pop star, but it was still a good show. Well done on "SNL's" part for this incredible intro.

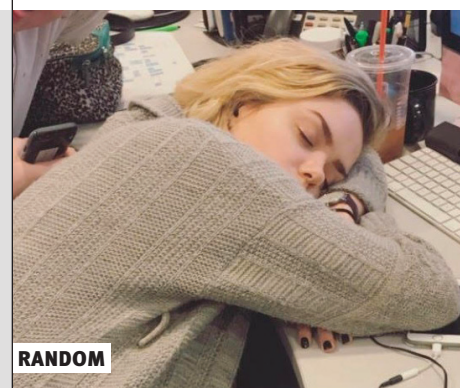


## LADY GAGA'S 'THE CURE'



» **BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

After Lady Gaga's venture into the country genre with her last album, pop radio has been missing her catchy anthems and dance beats. "The Cure," released April 16, is a new era of Gaga that is already as catchy and fun as her former "Poker Face" days in the early 2010s, though not as flashy. The track is sure to be a radio hit, especially as the top-down, hot summer weather approaches.



## NON-DROWSY ANTIHISTAMINES



» **ARABELLA BRECK**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Spring is a beautiful season right up until the allergies hit. Naturally, when the sniffing, coughing and eye-itching become too much to bear, I take antihistamines and usually go for the "non-drowsy" kind—a myth I can now officially debunk. I guess I'll just be toughing it out through the rest of allergy season to avoid another unplanned nap at my desk during the work day.





# DeVos' first months validate concerns about competence, bias

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' April 12 decision to withdraw rules protecting student loan recipients felt like a direct attack on Americans who have educational debts to repay—something DeVos has never had to do.

The policies—outlined in memos former President Barack Obama issued at the end of his term—were meant to restrict loan companies from taking advantage of borrowers with misleading sales techniques.

The resulting panic, fear and anger of parents and students who count on those policies are, presumably, countrywide. According to a Feb. 21 Forbes article, the total number of student borrowers in 2017 is 44.2 million.

Her decision is not surprising; DeVos never attended public school or received any kind of student loan—even with governmental protections.

Ripping away crucial protections raises questions many have been asking since DeVos was confirmed in February: Is DeVos unqualified for her position either because of her lack of experience or her rigid ideological bent?

Her most recent decision April 14 was to appoint Candice Jackson—a white woman who dismissed Trump's sexual assault accusers of being “fake victims”—as acting head of her department's Office of Civil Rights, a position that is responsible for reviewing and acting on discrimination allegations against people, brought mainly by women and minorities.

When 17,000 cases of alleged discrimination against women occurred in the fiscal year 2016, hiring a woman with a hostility to civil rights to head one of the most vital offices is one of the worst decisions DeVos could have made.

As a Stanford University student, Jackson wrote commentaries for a conservative journal claiming that she was discriminated against for being white and attacked the idea of college women fighting together for equal rights.

DeVos first removes protections for borrowers, and now her decision to appoint Jackson will likely have a negative impact

Public education and discrimination relate to public health, and without qualified people who understand their job, the country will be unable to tackle issues such as lowering teen pregnancy rates or reducing gun and gang violence. This country can't prosper if those in charge of our future are indifferent or unaware of how their decisions affect people.

DeVos can't reverse these decisions, but if she wants to ease public scrutiny, it is vital she protects the education system and hires staff who have not spent two decades undermining the purpose of their job. DeVos would be more accepted if she spent

**This country can't prosper if those in charge of our future are indifferent or unaware of how their decisions affect people.** ”

on marginalized groups. The Trump Administration seems to be set on knocking down any protections Obama put in place without concern for resulting sufferers.

time advocating for public schools, working to desegregate the public school system and aiming the trajectory of public education in a positive direction.

# Party bus shootings don't need another ordinance

Three men in a party bus pulled into a Dunkin Donuts parking lot, 6332 N. Broadway, on March 12. Two of them died after a “verbal altercation” resulted in gunfire.

Two dead, one injured—the victims are now a part of the growing list of those injured in party bus altercations that turned deadly. Since 2015, there have been 11 shootings—three fatal—while aboard what has been called a “rolling cemetery.”

The alcohol, laughter and merriment of a rented bus filled with closed friends and cruising through the city is no place for a loaded weapon, and it seems Mayor Rahm Emanuel agrees.

Emanuel introduced an ordinance March 27, amended and approved by the City Council April 19, that requires a licensed security guard or security

camera when the bus has 15 or more passengers consuming liquor either on board or at stops. Intoxicated passengers may not be admitted unless the next stop is the last or point of origin.

The ordinance does not mention firearms because under the Illinois concealed carry law, carrying loaded guns is legal except in specified places such as bars or restaurants, where more than 50 percent of sales are alcohol-related. That restriction does not apply to party buses because passengers bring their own liquor on board.

On party buses, owners decide whether to ban guns, a decision that seems easy enough to make: no guns, no exceptions. While some party bus companies do have weapons policies, company officials told the Chicago Tribune that those bans are rarely enforced, according to an April 14 Tribune article.

Companies that will not enforce no-weapon policies will not pay for the security cameras and unnecessary security. A few ordinances have been introduced in the past to try to stop party bus violence with little success. In October 2015, Ald. Edward Burke (14th Ward) proposed an ordinance that required a responsible person 25 or older to check IDs and the use of a licensed vendor for alcohol sales on buses, but it failed to gain support. In September 2016, drivers were required to be responsible for making sure no one under 21 is drinking, no weapons are fired, no marijuana is possessed and no one is engaged in “disorderly conduct.”

If the city is serious about enforcing gun regulations, it could address the issue of shootings on party buses by requiring drivers to have security and Emergency Medical Technician training so they can assist if guns are discharged or a critical emergency occurs. This may increase operator cost, but the solution has worked for other youth excursions, including outdoor activities such as kayaking and backpacking.

Mixing guns and alcohol yields bad results. Victims include Quentin Payton, a 28-year-old father, and Chaz Johnson, a 22-year-old who took himself to the hospital 20 minutes after the March 12 shooting in the parking lot of Dunkin Donuts.

Payton and Johnson are part of a longer list of victims for whom Emanuel has half-heartedly fought for justice. This ordinance, while a commendable effort to stop a specific scenario, will not solve a much larger issue. Emanuel wants a triumph, but he is no closer to getting it if people in the city—not just on party buses—keep getting killed.

Gun violence anywhere—whether on buses, the street, cars or inside homes—cannot continue. Instead of reveling in small victories, Emanuel has to push for the big ones because the city depends on it.

There is no easy way to stop violence in a city as large and complex as this one. However, Emanuel needs to stop taking baby steps in protecting Chicagoans and help ensure a safer city.

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Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or have strong beliefs about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 2, you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you. —**The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board**





COMMENTARY

# Chechnya gay camp cannot be tolerated in 2017

» **ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI**  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Disturbing reports have surfaced that approximately 100 men in Chechnya, Russia, who are suspected of being gay are being imprisoned in a torture concentration camp in Argun, according to an April 3 article from The Independent and several national media outlets.

Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta was the first to report on the camp after members of a local gay rights group, GayRussia.ru, were arrested after being denied gay pride parade permits. The prisoners have been subjected to barbaric practices such as being beaten several times a day, having their hands electrocuted and being forced to sit on bottles, according to survivor accounts told to The Guardian April 13.

Alvi Karimov, a spokesman for Chechnya's leader Ramzan Kadyrov, said the report was a lie, denying the camp's existence.

"You cannot detain and persecute people who simply do not exist in the republic," Karimov told Interfax news agency, absurdly claiming there are no LGBTQ Chechen people. He also denied

any human rights' violations despite reports of violent harassment of Human Rights Watch representatives and journalists who uncovered the story.

Unlike Moscow and St. Petersburg, which are more westernized and have vibrant gay communities, Chechnya hosts a different ethnic makeup that is predominantly Sunni Muslim and has

Vladimir Putin has said victims of the alleged assaults should file official complaints and take them to court, he has given no indication of protecting the LGBTQ community, which has been treated unfairly for too long in Chechnya.

The world needs to hold the Chechen government accountable for the reported torturing of gay men. People cannot

## The world needs to hold the Chechen government accountable for the reported torturing of gay men. ”

a highly conservative government. The global media has rightly brought the camp to light and is reporting on the pain and injustice, but nothing can change if the government does not renounce and rectify its archaic and unjust treatment of minority groups and LGBTQ community.

Kadyrov should admit his wrongdoing and a commission should investigate how this happened. This is necessary to right these wrongs and quell the prejudice that plagues Chechnya. While President

be held, tortured or killed based on who they are. It is up to the citizens, allies and human rights lawyers—who are rightfully and quickly becoming involved to help—to turn against Kadyrov and his close friend Putin.

These leaders must see that LGBTQ people do exist in Chechnya and are only making our world a more accepting, diverse and stronger place.

[aparrella@chroniclemail.com](mailto:aparrella@chroniclemail.com)

STUDENT POLL

*What would make you attend a collegewide meeting?*



**CONOR KEELING**  
senior cinema art and science major

*"[Organizers] need to explain how the students benefit from going and maybe offer some type of snack."*

**BELEN RUIZ**  
freshman interactive arts and media major

*"[Allowing students to] plan ahead so [they] can schedule it in their books."*



**NATALIE RUSSO**  
junior public relations major

*"A Q&A of what students really want to know or an activity with crafts."*



## Executive office is not the end-all be-all

» **ERIC BRADACH**  
METRO EDITOR

In the wake of President Donald Trump's inauguration, the public has organized an endless stream of protests and demonstrations. From the Women's March the day after to the Tax March April 15, it is exhilarating to witness as well as report on the resistance.

The public has become so invested in what the new White House administration is up to that people have even been protesting against cabinet nominees and the

recently confirmed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch.

It is unquestionably important to pay attention to what is happening in the Oval Office, but it's time to redirect this increased attention and focus on what happens Capitol Hill and in state legislatures.

If the average citizen on the street was asked to name one of their state lawmakers, their response would probably be nothing more than a blank stare. Asking the name of a member of the U.S. House of Representatives will most likely have the same result. Only a fraction would be able to name their U.S. senator.

Despite their apparent lack of knowledge, only 20 percent of U.S. adults approve of Congress, according to an April 11 Gallup poll. How can they judge the U.S. government if they don't know how it operates?

This is an obvious problem. People need to stay informed about who is representing them in the legislative branch because it sets the budget and writes the laws.

In a September 2014 Annenberg poll, 35 percent of Americans out of 1,416 asked could not name a single branch of government. Meanwhile, 73 percent did not know it takes a two-thirds vote to override a presidential veto, and 21 percent thought a Supreme Court decision is sent back to Congress to be reconsidered.

Given this level of apathy, what has the heavily despised Congress been up to? To

no surprise, rejecting measures to help the public and approving damaging legislation.

In January, the Senate rejected a bill that would have lowered the cost of pharmaceutical drugs by allowing them to be imported from Canada.

Earlier this month, Congress voted to dismantle internet privacy protection policies, enabling internet providers such as Comcast, Verizon and AT&T to monitor, collect and store information about American's online activity, then sell it, which was later approved by Trump, as discussed by The Chronicle Editorial Board April 10.

Another concern is that nearly four in 10 Americans incorrectly said the Constitution gives the president the power to declare war, according to a September 2016 Washington Post article. This is disturbing because it seems the U.S. could enter another war any minute following Trump's approval of a 59-cruise missile airstrike at a Syrian airbase.

Members of the public who are unhappy with Trump need to understand the U.S. has more than one branch of government and intelligently lobby their legislatures if they want to combat his administration. The legislature's purpose is to write laws, approve the budget and decide whether to go to war, but all of these issues seem to be heading in the wrong direction.

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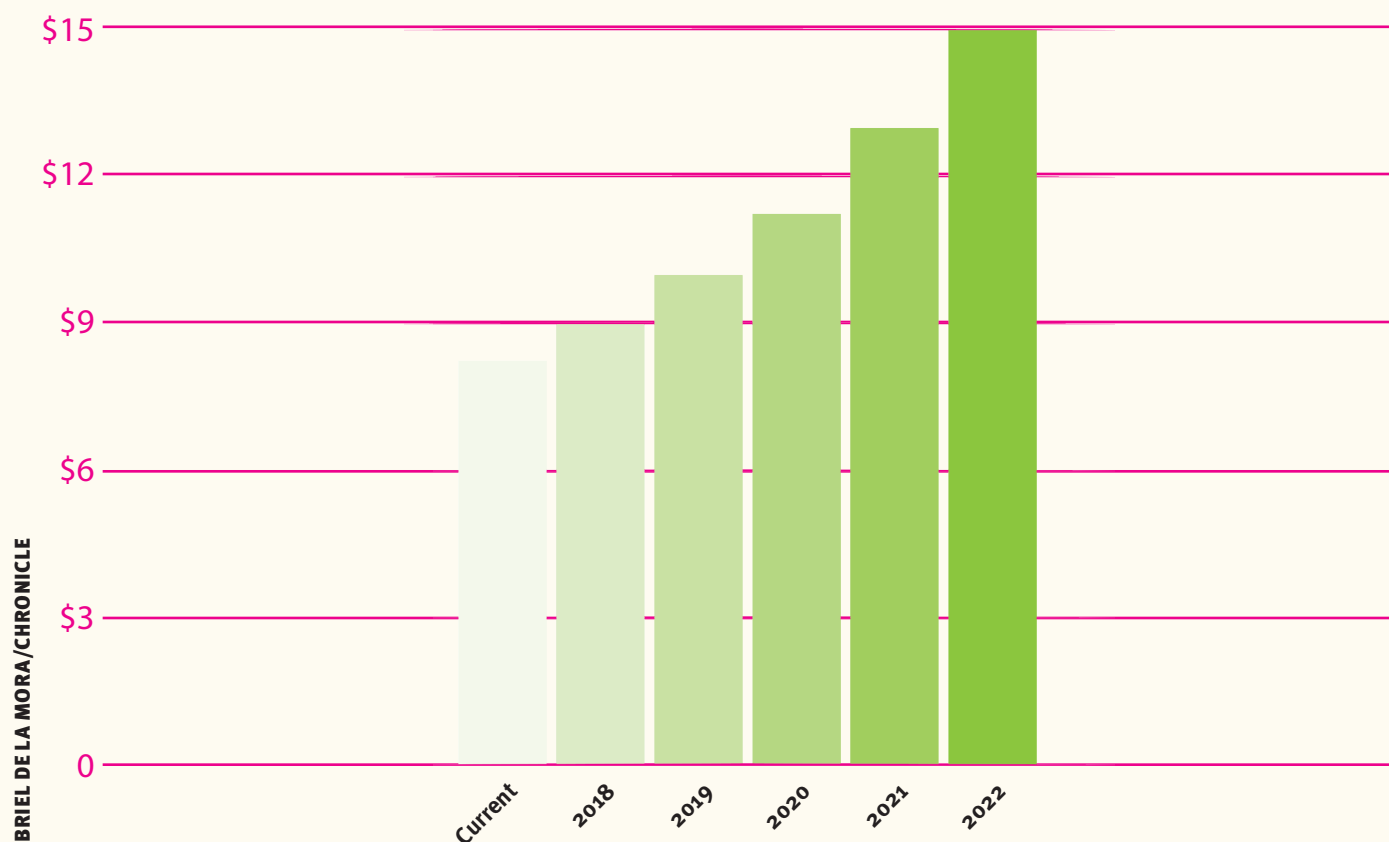
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### Proposed IL Minimum Wage Increase Timeline



INFORMATION COURTESY ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECORDS

## Proposed minimum wage hike triggers dispute between lawmakers, businesses

» ERIC BRADACH  
METRO EDITOR

**THE FIGHT FOR** a \$15-an-hour minimum wage has made significant progress both nationwide and in Chicago but is now advancing statewide.

A recently attached amendment to House Bill 198 by state Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, would incrementally raise the state's minimum wage until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2022, according to the legislation.

"Almost two and a half million people in this state earn less than \$15 an hour, including a lot of folks in my district," said Guzzardi, who represents the 39th District. "You have seen a national movement around the [Fight for 15]. You shouldn't be living in poverty if you work a full-time job."

Illinois' minimum wage is currently \$8.25 an hour, and in 2015, Chicago City Council passed an ordinance to phase in a \$13 an hour minimum wage for the city, which has a current minimum wage of \$10.50 an hour and is scheduled to increase to \$11 July 1, according to the ordinance.

If Illinois residents earn the minimum wage, they would make \$17,160 a year before taxes. That is not enough to get by as an individual, let alone raise a family, Guzzardi said.

Should the bill pass through the Illinois legislature and receive Gov. Bruce Rauner's signature, the state minimum wage would increase at the beginning of each year.

"When you have everyday workers making more money, they spend more money," said state Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, one of the bill's sponsors. "It's a combination of people having a better quality of life, pay more taxes and improve the state's financial crisis."

However, David Jackson, the owner of a Save-A-Lot grocery store in downstate Clinton, Illinois, said the increase will cause "tremendous" inflation and "massive" layoffs for all businesses.

"People at the new starting wage will gain nothing because everything they buy will cost 25 to 50 [percent more]," said Jackson, who is also on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Food Retailers Association.

It is a misconception that the wage increase will help parents raise families

because the majority of minimum wage workers are high school or college students, Jackson said. It should be up to the employer to decide whether to reward a worker with a raise or promotion not dictated by the government, he added.

According to 2015 statistics analysis by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about half of minimum wage workers are under 25 years old.

Ford said he understands employers' concerns, but the increase in wages would create more revenue for businesses and improve worker morale.

"If we keep people working poor and keep them in poverty, it only costs the state more money," Ford said. "We put people in a position where they are eligible for state assistance like subsidies."

Jackson dismissed the idea that an increased minimum wage would steer people away from obtaining government assistance. Those who are lucky enough not to be affected by layoffs will not need the assistance, but others will because there will not be any new jobs, he said.

Jackson said retailers on the Illinois border will be hit the hardest because customers will only need to travel a short distance to take advantage of potentially cheaper prices.

However, Guzzardi said data does not support the criticism that a state minimum wage increase will cause job losses and businesses to leave.

"There are [other] states and communities that have raised their minimum wage and we can see what happens," Guzzardi said, adding that he used those states as models for the bill. "In jurisdictions who have raised their minimum wage [there] has not been any mass exit of jobs or any mass increase of unemployment."

Among the states bordering Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and Kentucky all have the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour and Missouri is \$7.70 an hour, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

California, New York and Washington, D.C. have recently passed legislation to increase their minimum wage to \$15 an hour, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Guzzardi said the House bill provides tax subsidies to help small businesses adapt to the increased wages.

Companies with 50 or fewer workers would receive an income tax credit proportional to the wage increase; however, it would shrink each year and be eliminated once the \$15 an hour pay is established in 2022, according to Guzzardi.

Rob Karr, president and CEO of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, said the proposal is a "killer" for job opportunities even with the tax subsidies for small businesses.

The bill passed the House Labor and Commerce Committee, of which Guzzardi and Ford are members, by 17-6 on April 5, and both said they are confident it will receive the 60 required votes to pass the House.

Guzzardi said Rauner opposes the minimum wage increase, but he is "hopeful" the governor will sign the bill because the upcoming 2018 governor election could create an "outpouring of public pressure" for him to approve it.

The governor is open to increasing the minimum wage as long as it comes with reforms like workers compensation, said Rauner spokeswoman Eleni Demertzis in an April 20 email.

"It will be a test case for where the governor's values lie," Guzzardi said. "Is he going to stick up for the two and a half million people in the state who need a raise, or is he going to stick up for the profits of big corporations?"

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# AROUND THE WORLD

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»ARABELLA BRECK  
MANAGING EDITOR

## Sexual assault must be addressed regardless of circumstances

Cases of sexual assault and gender-based violence in South Sudan increased by 64 percent in 2016 compared with 2015, said Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan Eugene Owusu in an April 19 U.N. News Centre article.

While some may see this statistic and suggest that the overall violence and unrest in South Sudan must be quelled in order to stop this increase, that suggestion unfortunately ignores the severity of sexual assault as its own issue. It must be emphasized that sexual assault and gender-based violence can occur separately or as part of overall violence and must be addressed in either scenario.

Fortunately, it seems the U.N. has recognized the seriousness of this issue with its recent creation of a special task force to be led by Jane Holl Lute, former U.S. deputy secretary of Homeland Security, according to an April 6 article from the U.N. News Centre.

The task force will be working with peacekeeping missions in several countries, including South Sudan, to take a new approach to combating sexual assault and gender-based violence, according to the same article.

The new approach that the U.N. task force is taking will include a “four-fold strategy,” Lute said in the article, which will be “focusing on the rights and dignity of victims, ending impunity for those guilty of crimes and abuses, reaching broadly to external experts and those affected [and] raising awareness and sharing best practices.”

What Lute presented as her overall strategy for the task force may not seem like the most groundbreaking plan. The goals mentioned all seem like obvious ones when it comes to effectively dealing with sexual abuse and assault. However, her plans to address them with this task force are still beneficial because it is apparent in places like South Sudan and around the world that sexual assault is being improperly addressed at the most basic level.



Moving forward with this task force’s goals, Lute and the people with whom she will work should keep several things in mind.

Assault perpetrated by military personnel and even government officials is a situation that is extremely common in countries experiencing violent upheaval or turmoil.

Government and rebel troops in South Sudan have faced accusations of sexual assault, including gang rape allegations, since the civil war broke out in 2013.

With these situations, the U.N. and other advocacy groups must not provide help for victims only after the fact. If disenfranchised people are at risk of being victims of violence, they must have protection and resources available.

But, not all sexual assault or abuses occurring in a country like South Sudan are related to overall violence or instability. There are still cases of women being raped or assaulted by people they know. There are still cases of women being date-raped or raped by their spouses and partners, and these situations cannot be ignored by the task force and other advocacy groups.

Gender-based violence and sexual assault against South Sudanese people and people around the world should not be overlooked simply because the countries are unstable or at war. No matter the condition of a country, people deserve to be protected and treated with respect.

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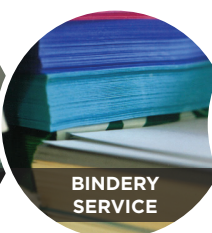
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# Windy City promises renewable future

» JACKIE MURRAY  
METRO REPORTER

**CHICAGO MAY SOON** have some of its public buildings operating on 100 percent clean energy—perhaps as soon as 2025, according to an April 9 press release from the mayor's office.

This new energy initiative will make Chicago the largest major city in the U.S. to have public buildings operating exclusively on renewable energy, the mayor's office said.

According to the press release, the plan includes Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Park District, Chicago Housing Authority, Fleet and Facility Management and the City Colleges of Chicago. These organizations' buildings collectively amount to 8 percent of all electricity use in Chicago—equivalent to the power of 295,000 homes.

"[It] will help Chicago serve as a hub for Midwest clean energy ecosystems," said Elizabeth

Kocs, director of Programming, Outreach, Research and Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Energy Initiative. "This is not uncommon for Chicago to take the lead in something that is green [and] sustainable."

Not only will the initiative help the environment, it will also help stabilize energy costs and create jobs by putting renewable energy sources on the city's property, said MeLena Hessel, policy advocate at the Environmental Law and Protection Center.

"[If] CPS puts solar panels on a neighborhood school, that will stabilize the school's energy costs [because] they will be generating energy and create some local construction jobs," Hessel said. "But, it will also create opportunities for hands-on learning for students [by] demonstrating the opportunity of solar to folks in the neighborhood [and] making it much more tangible."

Kocs agreed that the move toward cleaner energy is critical for the advancement of research and economic development. The initiative will help increase innovation and deployment of clean technologies, she added.

"We're seeing some big shifts in the energy mix that we have in all parts of the country and globally," said Aaron Durnbaugh, director of Sustainability for Loyola University. "If [corporations and government units] can make long-term commitments to buying from clean sources, they cannot only get a good price for electricity compared to what they're currently paying, but it can help them plan longer term for what the costs of their electricity will be."

The city and country can continue to make progress by addressing their fossil fuel use, he said, adding that fossil fuels are one of the biggest contributors to global climate change and that

pollution in one place affects the entire environment.

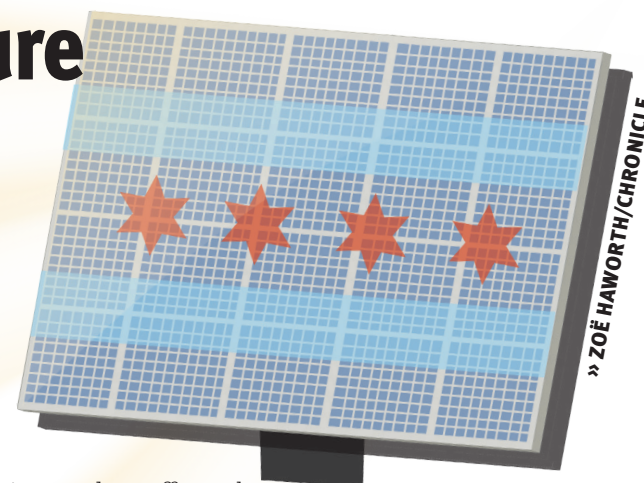
"We have to remember the atmosphere doesn't stop at city line and state lines or on a national boundary," Durnbaugh said. "When you put pollution into the atmosphere, it's not like it just stays where that place of combustion was. It travels around."

In order to cut back on fossil fuel emission, the country has to change its use of transportation and minimize its carbon footprint, which Durnbaugh said it is not doing aggressively enough. The

city can help by finding ways to educate citizens on how they can reduce their own carbon footprint, he added.

"There's still so much more efficiency, fuel switching or other strategies that need to be made in transportation," Durnbaugh said. "If we really want to address climate change, we can't leave any of these sectors [behind] just because we are going to do clean energy and electricity."

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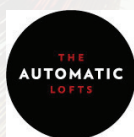
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# Senator: Prohibition doesn't work

## Illinois lawmakers say recreational weed could fix state budget

» ZACH MOORE/CHRONICLE



State Sen. Heather Steans (left) and State Rep. Kelly Cassidy (right) authored legislation that would legalize recreational marijuana in Illinois.

» JACKIE MURRAY  
METRO REPORTER

**WITH NO SOLUTION** in sight for the state's budget crisis, some Illinois lawmakers are advocating for regulating and taxing recreational marijuana to help fund devastated

state-funded programs, including public schools.

The first hearing on what State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, said would be a lengthy series of in-depth discussions on the proposed policy's impact was held April 19 at the Michael Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle St.

Cassidy and State Sen. Heather Steans, D-Chicago, authors of legislation that would legalize marijuana for recreational use, invited Barbara Brohl, executive director of the Colorado Department of Revenue. Brohl oversees the state's marijuana enforcement and explained the pros and cons of Colorado's recreational marijuana law to the group of lawmakers.

"Prohibition right now just does not work," Steans said. "We want to look and understand what is happening around the country on taxing and regulating [marijuana],

and if there are other ways to be thinking about this."

According to a March 11 Paul Simon Public Policy Institute poll, 74 percent of 1,000 Illinois residents surveyed support the decriminalization of marijuana for individuals in possession of small amounts for personal consumption. Sixty-six percent support recreational marijuana legalization if it is taxed and regulated like alcohol.

Steans said Illinois has approximately 700,000 residents who use marijuana, but only 17,000 have medical marijuana cards—meaning the majority acquires marijuana illegally. Senate Bill 316 and House Bill 2353 set up a framework to tax and regulate marijuana for recreational use in Illinois.

It is a major policy shift, and the bills are not intended to be called for votes during this session, she added.

According to Brohl, Colorado has used tax revenue from regulation to fund initiatives that Illinois needs to finance.

"Taxation is a key component because good regulation costs money," Brohl said. "It takes longer, costs more and [is] harder than you think. What taxation money does is [fund] programs for substance abuse prevention and treatment."

Colorado is able to receive these funds through a three-tier taxation system for recreational marijuana, she said. There is a 15 percent excise tax on the initial transfer of marijuana when it is first harvested. The first \$40 million in revenue goes to school construction with the remainder added to public school system funding. A 10 percent special tax is also charged with 85 percent retained by the state to fund drug prevention and educational programs. A 2.9 percent state sales tax is then added.

She added that Colorado has collected \$401.9 million in marijuana tax revenue since January 2014.

If the state adopts a similar system of marijuana sales, individuals will be able to own up to six plants per adult but will be subject to a criminal background check, Brohl said.

She added that states must be wary of improper use of marijuana after it is legalized.

"What keeps me up at night is a 22-year-old person who walks in and buys [marijuana] legally and gives it to his or her 15-year-old brother and sister," Brohl said.

One difficulty with regulating recreational marijuana is the need for a scientifically accepted standard of an individual's level of THC—the active ingredient found in marijuana—similar to the system used to measure blood alcohol level, Brohl said.

"We're trying to figure out what's the right way to approach this," Brohl said. "It's one of the difficulties of [marijuana regulation]."

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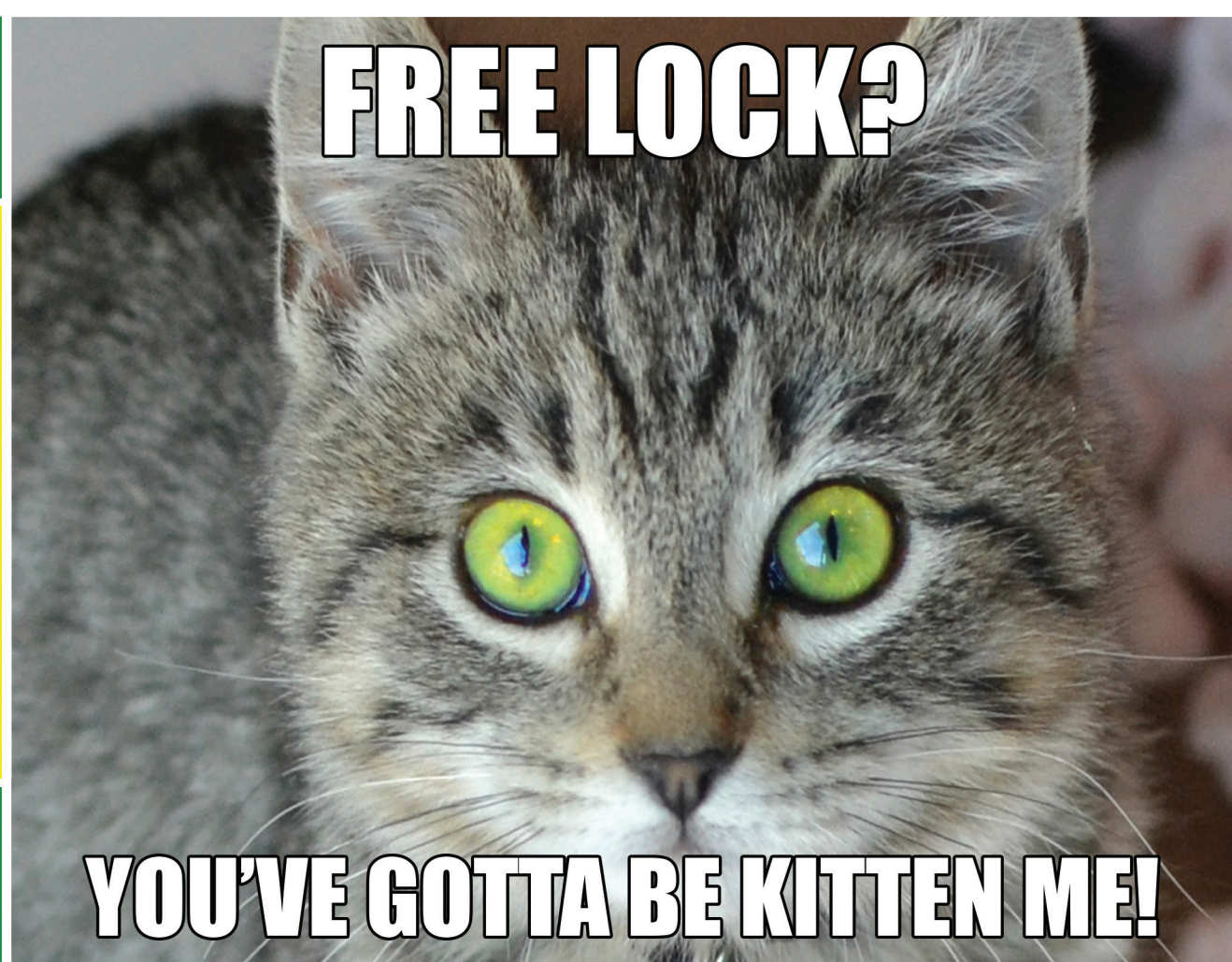
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# Track your order— food trucks battle regulations

» **CAROLINE BOWEN**  
METRO REPORTER

A **LIBERTARIAN LAW** firm waging war against Chicago's food truck regulations is appealing the court decision that dismissed its lawsuit.

Robert Frommer, senior attorney at the Institute for Justice, which brought a constitutional challenge with the backing of the Illinois Policy Institute, an independent public policy organization, said his law firm filed an appeal April 4 in *LMP Service Inc. v. City of Chicago* with the Illinois Appellate Court's 1st District.

The lawsuit argues that prohibiting trucks from operating within 200 feet of restaurants violates the right to pursue a trade or business free from irrational regulation, according to the Dec. 16, 2016, court decision. The court found the requirement was not irrational

because it balanced the interests of both food trucks and restaurants.

The lawsuit also argued that requiring a truck to have a GPS device amounted to an unreasonable search and seizure, but the court said "there is no reasonable expectation of privacy when the food truck is open for business and

serving food to the public," and pointed out the food truck licensees will know when their information is being retrieved.

The regulations prevent food truck businesses from succeeding, said Hilary Gowins, spokeswoman for the Illinois Policy Institute.

"There are a lot of powerful interests in this city that do not want to face competition," Gowins said. "This goes beyond just food trucks."

However, according to Sam Toia, president and CEO of the Illinois

Restaurant Association, the regulations support health policies mirroring restaurant regulations.

If a customer of a food truck business becomes sick from their food, the Illinois Department of Public Health needs to track down the location where the incident occurred, he added.

"The [IRA] supports responsible and pragmatic public policies for all operators in the culinary industry," Toia said. "This is all about allergens, food handlers and good health policies."

Noting a 2004 the Supreme Court decision, *United States v. Jones*, that the government's use of GPS to track a vehicle is a search within the Fourth Amendment, Frommer said the search is unreasonable because the GPS devices are unrelated to public health concerns and it invades private property.

"You can regulate for health and safety, but you can't pick and choose winners and losers in the market," Frommer said. "[It's] the job of consumers to decide where to get their lunch—not politicians."

Frommer said the 200-foot rule exists solely to protect restaurants from competition.

"There were some restaurateurs who were scared of having to up their game and actually provide better products," Frommer said. "So they ran to the government and asked [them] to make the competition basically illegal near them."

According to Toia, the 200-foot rule reflects zoning restrictions restaurants in the city follow.

"Food trucks are just like iconic, chef-driven and neighborhood restaurants," Toia said.

Defending his concerns, Frommer added that a study called *Opportunity Lost*, conducted by the Institute for Justice in October 2016, found it is impossible to vend in 97 percent of the curb space in downtown Chicago—the city's busiest lunch district.

"The reason the courts exist is to protect these kinds of back room deals from stifling our rights," Frommer said.

cbowen@chroniclemail.com



A battle over Chicago's food truck regulations pits the city against libertarian lawyers who critiques the rules as anti-competitive.

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» KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

Community organizer Arnold Julien, who serves as a Thought Leader with the city treasurer's office, spoke about his experience in solitary confinement during his 11 times in prison. Julien was one of the speakers for the People's Tribunal on Solitary Confinement event hosted by "Stop Solitary Coalition of Illinois," held April 21 at Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave.

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